

TOM RYAN: A TRIBUTE

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2000*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great American, Thomas J. Ryan, whom the Lord claimed for eternal life earlier this month.

Tom Ryan's 87 years were lived with the joy, wit, humor, intensity, and love of life unique to his Irish ancestry. Tom Ryan was husband twice: to Eileen, who preceded him in death; and to Miriam, with whom he shared 42 glorious years; he was father of 13, grandfather of 42, and great-grandfather of 36 and loved them all equally and dearly.

Tom Ryan served his country in the Navy during World War II; and, again, during the Korean conflict, as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney prosecuting OPS violations. He served the city of St. Paul as assistant city Attorney, the people of the 55th legislative district in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and served the people of Pine, Isanti, and Chisago counties in the Minnesota State Senate, making his mark with important legislation affecting the judiciary, towns and counties, veterans, and highways.

This brief recitation of only the highlights of Tom's professional life shows abundantly that he was a man who, in Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes' words, "lived grandly in the law"—meaning that he was devoted to and an advocate of the law. He was also devoted to public service as a calling and a vocation.

Tom Ryan was my friend, counselor, and role model in his commitment to his family first, and to the people whom he so ably served in both elective and appointive office.

Tom Ryan's life and legacy might best be summed up by a scripture verse I have always loved, from Proverbs, ch. 18, v. 31: "Gray hair is a crown of glory;" it is gained by virtuous living."

I will miss Tom greatly; but he will always be a part of my life and an inspiration to my public service. Tom, and especially Miriam, as well as all their beautiful family, will always be in my prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following obituary which appeared in numerous newspapers, as well as the beautiful poem, "The Heart of Solid Gold," written by Tom's loving daughter, Gloria Baker.

THOMAS J. RYAN

10/3/12—6/8/00

On October 3, 1912, Irishman, Thomas Joseph Ryan was born in Portland, Oregon. In 1935 he graduated from College of St. Thomas with a BA degree in social and political science. In 1943 he graduated from the William Mitchell School of Law with an LLB degree and was admitted to the practice of law in the state of Minnesota. His personal commitment to the field of law would not allow him to retire and he continued his private practice until the time of his passing.

From 1943 to 1946 he served in the U.S. Navy as Lieutenant J.G. After his discharge he was engaged in the general practice of law in Milaca area. During the Korean war he was appointed Special Assistant U.S. District attorney in the prosecution of OPS vio-

lations. Thereafter, he was appointed assistant city attorney for the city of St. Paul, in which capacity he served six years. He had been connected with the Minnesota attorney general's office as special assistant in the trial of jury cases in highway condemnation matters and in writing opinions on municipal law.

His specialty while in the city attorney's office was in research and drafting legislation and in presenting proposals to the legislature.

He served as state representative of the old 55th district. As a member of the legislature he served upon many important committees such as the committees on judiciary, highways, towns and counties, and veterans and military affairs.

He ran for the office of state senator in the new 21st district comprising of Chisago, Isanti and Pine counties in 1962. He served as Pine County Attorney from 1974-1980, until his retirement, at which time he continued his private law practice in the Pine County area.

Thomas was preceded in death by his first wife Eileen (Fitzgerald), his parents, Thomas and Alice (Doyle) Ryan, brother Dr. James Ryan, son, Thomas J. (Ryan) Jr., infant Mary (Ryan), infant grandson Patrick Johnson, and numerous other relatives and friends.

He is survived by and sorely missed by his second wife and best friend of over 42 years, Miriam (Young Mueller), 13 children; Kathleen (Ryan) and Terrance Oakes, Ortonville; Constance (Ryan) and Thomas Oakes, Marine on the St. Croix; Thomas and Phyllis Mueller, Aitken; John Ryan, Astoria, Oregon; Patricia (Ryan) and Denis Paine, Isanti; Paul and Judy Mueller, Apple Valley; Michael Ryan and fiancée Helen Bartell, Mora; Carol (Mueller) and Roger Abdella, Pine City; Rosemary (Mueller) and Lawrence Perreault, Pine City; Gloria (Mueller) and Ralph Baker, Pine City; Mary (Mueller) and Dennis Willert, Pine City; Therese (Mueller) and Richard Prihoda, Pine City; Shawn (Ryan) and Douglas Johnson, Pine City, also survived by 42 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

Visitation and prayer service at Swanson Funeral Chapel, Pine City, Sunday, June 11, from 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Funeral mass celebration and burial will be on Monday, June 12, at 10:30 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church in Pine City, with Father Michael Lyons officiating.

His legacy of love for family, involvement and vitality for life will continue to be an inspiration to us all. In life he was teaching us, in his passing he taught us. Rest in the peace and love of the Lord, and meet us at heaven's gate when it is our turn.

Thomas graduated from the College of St. Thomas and William Mitchell School of Law. He served in the U.S. Navy as Lieutenant J.G. 1943 to 1946. After discharge he practiced law in the Milaca area. During the Korean War he was appointed Special Assistant U.S. District Attorney in the prosecution of OPS violations. He was appointed Assistant City Attorney for the city of St. Paul, and served for six years. Through the Minnesota Attorney General's Office he was a special assistant in the trial of jury cases in highway condemnation matters and in writing opinions on municipal law. He was state representative of the old 55th district. In 1962 he ran for the office of state senator in the new 21st district comprising of Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties. He served as Pine County Attorney from 1974-1980, until his retirement, at which time he continued his private prac-

tice in the Pine County area until his passing.

Preceding him in death are his first wife Eileen (Fitzgerald), parents Thomas and Alice (Doyle) Ryan, brother Dr. James Ryan, son Thomas, infant Mary, grandson Patrick Johnson, and numerous other relatives. Survived by second wife of over 42 years, Miriam, 13 children, 42 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren.

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## THE HEART OF SOLID GOLD

By Gloria Baker

Dad was the man with a solid gold heart from other men this set him apart.

A husband, a father, and a dad too, for anyone can be a father but only someone special can be a dad.

He was a friend and teacher and sometimes was even a preacher to this I'll explain.

As a lawyer his love was to keep law and order that was at times so trying for support he could have used a brick wall filled with mortar.

He lived life following his golden rule. His convictions so strong he was stubborn as a mule

"Innocent until proven guilty" Much time spent representing family and friend, defending, prosecuting and closing reality.

An exceptionally special adult generous to a fault.

Many times working gratis whether intended or not, often putting him in a spot.

He'd give away his last dime and the shirt off his back.

Well known for the gift to talk of which one dared not balk.

He once aspired to be a district court judge. Served the people as he represented us in the days long before politicians toured on bus.

All of his life he remained active often entering into debate that became reactive.

With a passion for politics he was staunchly Democratic Farmer Labor, the DFL this was no secret everyone could tell.

Verbally opinionated carrying on conversations until someone surrenders or when he would become satiated.

A strong Catholic and love of god There were Wednesday night family Rosary meetings

first come got the best seating there were no pressures just told to come if you could.

Though we sometimes were too tired, we felt like we should.

Many trips by plane, boat, rail, or in the car with mom they would go far.

The Carribean, Mexico, Canada, Africa, Spain and Ireland.

All over the states in this great big beautiful land

The car was pre-programmed to stop at P.Q.s From this we have all learned to take the cue.

Eating healthy a must in the banana split he put his trust

Playing cards he was sharp; 500 or bridge on rotating teams he would play.

His partner of choice was mom

Often a winner he would beam  
for they made the best team.

Like a cowboy ready to draw

Sitting in his electronic easy chair he was  
armed with a remote in each hand with  
a push of a button it would boost him  
to stand.

Chocolates or ice cream along side  
he surfed the channels with all of his might.  
He watched the TV news that kept him in  
light

For lady luck he did look like searching  
through the pages of a great new book.  
A favorite machine he did have it was the  
slot called one-eyed jacks.

Like life, it was a gamble bells and whistles  
sometimes would ramble.

His family his pride and joy as if they were  
a child's new toy.

He puffed up his chest bigger than the rest.  
Filled with love he would always brag.

Like a lion I must boast proudly of this man  
we called dad, husband and friend.  
Until the very end a handsome Irish  
man.

Full of dignity, pride, peace, and grace some-  
times as delicate as fine lace, always,  
and even with his failing health he  
gave us a wealth of gifts to carry in our  
hearts.

Numerous wonderful "I Love You's" as if he  
couldn't tell us enough from this man  
he who sometimes played tough.

Hand dances, singing the Rose of Tralee, con-  
versations, or just smiles, and those  
beautiful dancing Irish eyes all never  
to part.

His golden heart of love stopped beating and  
with that a part of ours did too, but his  
legacy of love for family, involvement  
and vitality for life will continue to be  
an inspiration to us.

In life he was teaching us in his passing he  
taught us.

Rest in the peace and love of the Lord, Dad,  
and meet us at heavens gate when it is  
our turn.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2000*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 23 and 26, 2000, had family commitments and missed rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323 and 324. I ask that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, 318 and 319. Also the record should reflect I would have noted "no" on rollcall votes 320, 321, 322, and "aye" on rollcall vote 323 and "no" on rollcall vote 324.

#### MCNULTY, HIGGINS HONORED FOR OLD KING COAL DAY PROGRAM

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2000*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carol McNulty, a teacher at Edward Mackin Elementary School in Wilkes-

Barre, and the Newspaper in Education program of the Citizens' Voice, which is run by Debby Higgins. Carol and Debby will be coming to Washington to receive an award from the Newspaper Association of America for their Old King Coal Day project.

The NAA will present them with one of its Newspaper Innovators in Education Awards on July 14, and they will also be participating in a week-long educational seminar as guests of the NAA. They in turn will present the Old King Coal Day program to Newspapers in Education people from across the country.

This project began as a way to teach a new generation of children about the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially the role that the anthracite coal mining industry played in the region's development. Through the efforts of many people, Old King Coal Day became a reality on Sept. 23, 1999 at Edward Mackin Elementary School.

Students listened to speeches about the Molly Maguires and breaker boys, watched presentations about mining tools and equipment, and learned about the area's coal heritage. The organizers felt the day was a success and are planning a second Old King Coal Day for September at the Pringle Street Elementary School in the Wyoming Valley West School District. This spring, I visited with the students at Mackin elementary and can attest to the enthusiasm Ms. McNulty has generated. Old King Coal Day stimulated the students to seek a postal stamp honoring coal miners. On their behalf, I recently submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee the petitions that the students circulated, bearing more than 2,000 signatures.

One of the fourth-grade students, Stephen Grobinski, whose great-great-grandfather was killed in a coal mine, wrote an especially moving letter to the head of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee explaining why a coal miners stamp would be important to him. I would like to have this letter reprinted in full below

DEAR DR. VIRGINIA NOELKE: We want you to issue the stamp, because we want to honor the dead miners. How would you feel if your dad, grandpa, uncle, and your friends died in a mine? My great, great grandpa died in the mines. How do you think other people feel? I don't feel happy. They probably feel sad that their dads, grandpas and uncles died.

We did lots of projects for "Old King Coal Day." We did it to honor all the miners. I know somewhere in your heart you feel sad. If you don't, I can't understand why. People say that children can make a difference, and that is our goal.

One thing I want to know is why did you say no to all the people that asked you to issue the stamp? I hope you listen to us. If you say yes, I know that all the little people like me can make a difference in our lives. I said little people could make a difference because all my life I gave up, but this time I'm not going to give up! This is one thing that I want to accomplish! I want a stamp to honor the coal miners. Please, say you will grant my special wish.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN GROBINSKI.

The NAA award, which is a monetary prize, will be shared by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, which participated in the First Old King Coal Day, and the Citizens' Voice NIE program.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also worth noting that Carol McNulty has been named The Citizens' Voice Teacher of the Year. Both Carol McNulty and Debby Higgins are to be commended for their fine work with our young people and for ensuring that our history is passed on to future generations.

I also congratulate the Newspaper Association of America for creating this program to encourage newspapers to become more actively involved in schools. Our democracy depends on well-informed citizens, and this program helps to develop our young people into the active citizens of tomorrow.

I am pleased to call the service of Carol McNulty and Debby Higgins and their well-deserved honors to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I send my best wishes for continued success.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a particularly important hearing on the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act (P.L. 105-246). That hearing was held under the very able leadership of our distinguished colleague from California, STEPHEN HORN. Chairman HORN has shown unwavering support and a deep personal commitment to bring to justice Nazi war criminals through the full declassification of documents in possession of the National Archives and Records Service. His strong leadership was essential in the passage of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Congressman JIM TURNER, and the former Ranking Member, Congressman DENNIS KUCINICH, for their unwavering commitment to declassification issues in the pursuit of Nazi war criminals and human rights offenders around the world. Special recognition and appreciation should also be given to Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who introduced the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act in the House and who has been a leader on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the successful implementation of any bill passed by Congress must be measured against the goals we set out to achieve. The goal of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act is to declassify and make public any remaining documents in U.S. possession concerning Nazi crimes, criminals and looted property. At the same time this "right to know" must be balanced against legitimate reasons to continue to withhold certain documents. Since we are dealing with documents that are now half a century old, however, there clearly should be a bias in favor of declassification.

In compliance with Section 2 (b)(1) of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, President Clinton issued Exec. Order 13110 on January 11, 1999, which created the "Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group